

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 1-6 as being obvious over Hansen(6,357,440) in view of Dunford (4,670,011) is respectfully traversed. It is further respectfully submitted that Hansen has been misconstrued. Unlike as disclosed and claimed in independent claims 1 and 4,Hansen does not disclose a mask comprising a shell, a separate seal and a one-piece- headband provided with an opening through which a gas inlet conduit extends to mount the headband to the shell. To the contrary,Hansen does not disclose a separate seal rather the Hansen shell104 is pliable so as to conform to the face of a person,note Hansen col.2,lines 17 . Further to the contrary, Hansen discloses two elastic strips 109-109 which are mounted to the Hansen shell104 by being affixed to the edges of the Hansen shell at areas (plural) covered by the impermeable coating 115-115 ,note Hansen col.2,lines 45-47, and, most significantly, the Hansen hose connector 112 does not extend through either of these elastic strips.

Attached is a copy of Hansen Fig. 2 on which the mask shell 104 has been colored blue, the impermeable coating areas 115-115 have been colored red and the elastic strips109-109 have been colored green .From this is clear that Hansen does not disclose applicant's claimed mask wherein, inter alia, a gas inlet conduit extends through an opening in a one-piece elastic headband to mount the headband to the shell.

Dunford neither teaches nor suggests applicant's claimed mask and clearly does not disclose a mask , a mask seal or a gas inlet conduit extending through any opening formed in a one-piece headband . Dunford merely discloses ear coverings attached to a strap connected to goggles.

Accordingly,one of ordinary skill in this art upon viewing Hansen and Dunford does not find the mask structure recited in claims 1-6 either taught or suggested in either of these references either alone or in combination. It is thus submitted

that claims 1-6 define non-obvious subject over these references and their allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfull submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Gale Rhodes, Jr.', is written over the printed name.

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